

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
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R 212020Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1569

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CU, ESTC, CPAS

SUBJECT: MEXICO AND CUBA TRADE POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 023488 (B) MEXICO 1131

1. AFTER SOME DELAY I HAD PLEASANT, CORDIAL INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FEBRUARY 19. I REITERATED YOUR MESSAGE TO HIM RE CUBA (WHICH I HAD ALREADY GIVEN VIA RABASA) AND HE SEEMED UNDERSTANDING OF VIEW THAT FORTHCOMING OASGA SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO SETTLE ON NEXT STEPS FOR CUBA. HE STRONGLY HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD GO BEYOND THIS AND THAT OASGA COULD ACTUALLY NAIL DOWN THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. ECHEVERRIA IS CONCERNED THAT RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENTS MIGHT ATTEMPT INSIST ON LEGALISTIC INTERPRETATION WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT OF RIO TREATY BY RATIFICATION PRIOR TO BECOMING VALID AND THIS, OF COURSE, MIGHT TAKE YEARS. IN A SPECULATIVE VEIN, HE HOPED SOME GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON THE BASIS OF A SIMPLE MAJORITY OR ALTERNATIVELY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT A SIMPLE MAJORITY DOES EXIST, OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT WELL DECIDE THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE THEIR FAVORABLE VOTE IN ORDER NOT TO BLOCK THE WISHES OF THE MAJORITY.

2. HE CONTEMPLATES SENDING FOR OAS AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH FURTHER  
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ACTION ON CUBA MIGHT EXPEDITIOUSLY BE WORKED OUT. IN HIS VIEW,

FAILURE BY OASGA TO MOVE ON PROBLEM WOULD CAUSE EVEN GREATER SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH INTER AMERICAN SYSTEM THAN AFTER QUITO.

3. I ALSO SPOKE TO HIM OF THE PROBLEMS REGARDING TRADE WITH CUBA BY AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES, STRESSING THE NEED FOR DISCRETION AND TO AVOID PUBLICITY IN ORDER THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN DEAL WITH ISSUE IN COOPERATIVE MANNER. HE WAS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POINT OF VIEW AND SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM ON HIS PART. (SEE MEXICO 1567 FOR MY TALK WITH INDUSTRY SUBSECRETARY.) HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN MOVING AHEAD WITH CUBAN TRADE, HE CONSIDERED THIS PROBLEM ALMOST SECONDARY TO THE ACTUAL LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AND TO A RENEWAL OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA. HE STRESSED THAT CUBA NOW HAD MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THIS, IN ADDITION TO ITS SUBVERSIVE CAPABILITY, MADE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED STATES BE ONCE AGAIN REPRESENTED IN HAVANA IN ORDER TO OBSERVE DEVELOPMENTS DIRECTLY AS WELL AS TO DRAW CUBA OUT OF SOVIET ORBIT.

4. ECHEVERRIA REGRETTED THAT YOU WILL NOT BE VISITING ACAPULCO IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BUT REPEATED HIS INVITATION AND EXPRESSED HIS WARM PERSONAL APPRECIATION FOR CONSIDERATION YOU HAVE GIVEN TO HIS MESSAGES.  
JOVA

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## Message Attributes

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